

ATTACHMENT B
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a fluoroalkylcarboxylic acid of the formula RfCOOH wherein Rf is a C₁₋₁₆ fluoroalkyl group, which comprises oxidizing a fluoroalkyl alcohol having a formula H(CF₂)_nCH₂OH or F(CF₂)_nCH₂OH, wherein n is an integer of 1 to 16, using nitric acid and feeding oxygen into the reaction system ~~during after the start of the oxidation reaction to reduce the required amount of nitric acid to a stoichiometric amount or less relative to the fluoroalkyl alcohol.~~
2. (Original) The process according to claim 1 wherein the oxidation is carried out in the presence of a metal catalyst.
3. (Original) The process according to claim 2 wherein the metal catalyst is at least one metal selected from the group consisting of iron, nickel, copper and vanadium, or at least one oxide or salt of these metals.
4. (Original) The process according to claim 1 wherein a fluoroalkylcarboxylic acid of the formula RfCOOH wherein Rf is as defined above is present in the reaction system at the beginning of the reaction.